REMARKS

The Official Action of June 2, 2005, and the prior art cited and relied upon therein have been carefully studied. The claims in the application remain claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-25 and 27-33, and these claims define patentable subject matter warranting their allowance. Favorable reconsideration and such allowance are respectfully urged.

Claims 1, 2, 5-8, 11-13, 16-19, 22-24, 27-30 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Yeager et al. (U.S. Patent 5,950,190). Applicant has amended claims 1, 5, 12, 16, 23 and 27 in order to more clearly distinguish the present invention over the cited art.

Yeager describes a dynamic database interface with multiple graphical windows for searching and editing the database contents (abstract). Yeager shows an exemplary search window in Fig. 4, which includes different parameter buttons 52 with input fields 53 for input of search terms (col. 10, lines 11-25). For each of the input fields, a pull-down list 54 provides a choice of mathematical operators from which an end user may choose (col. 10, lines 36-39). In addition to these specialized functions, Fig. 4 also includes the standard "OK," "Clear," "Help" and "Done" buttons.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for increasing efficiency of interaction by an operator with data on a display by placing multiple redundant instances of an on-screen control at different locations in the display. The addition of the word "redundant" in the current amendment is supported clearly by Figs. 2A and 2B in the present patent application, each of which contains seventeen functionally-identical "DONE" buttons. Selection of any of the instances actuates the control. As a result, the operator need make only a small movement of a pointing device to reach the closest instance (page 3, lines 23-25, for example).

Yeager, by contrast, provides no such redundancy and makes no suggestion that this sort of redundancy might be useful. Each of the operators in Yeager's pull-down list refers only to a single, specific input field, belonging to a single parameter button. Therefore, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over Yeager. In view of the patentability of claim 1, dependent claims 2, 5-8 and 11 are also believed to be patentable.

Dependent claim 5 has also been amended to emphasize that all of the multiple redundant instances of the on-screen control indicate that the operator has finished processing the data in the plurality of fields on the computer display. By contrast, Yeager provides only a single "Done" control on

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screen in Fig. 4. Yeager's pull-down list 54 includes only mathematical operators, and Yeager makes no suggestion that this list might contain anything other than mathematical operators. Therefore, notwithstanding the patentability of claim 1, claim 5 is believed to be independently patentable.

The other dependent claims are similarly believed to recite independently-patentable subject matter, but specific arguments to this effect will be omitted here for the sake of brevity.

Independent claims 12 and 23 respectively recite apparatus and a computer software product that operate on principles similar to the method of claim 1. These claims have been amended in like fashion to claim 1 and are therefore believed to be patentable for the reasons stated above. In view of the patentability of independent claims 12 and 23, dependent claims 13, 16-19, 22, 24, 27-30 and 33 are likewise believed to be patentable. Claims 16 and 27 have been amended in like fashion to claim 5.

Claims 3, 9, 10, 14, 20, 21, 25, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Yeager in view of Kanatsu (U.S. Patent 6,628,832). In view of the patentability of independent claims 1, 12, and 23, dependent claims 3, 9, 10, 14, 20, 21, 25, 31 and 32 are also believed to be patentable.
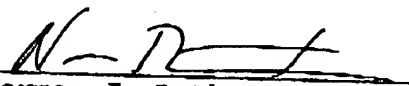
Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-25 and 27-33 were provisionally rejected for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-33 in co-pending application no. 10/191,035. Applicant will submit an amendment in application 10/191,035 canceling claims 1-33 and introducing new claims covering different subject matter. It is believed that this amendment will obviate the need for a terminal disclaimer in the present case. Should it be established that a there remains a basis for a double patenting rejection following the amendment, Applicant will submit the appropriate terminal disclaimer.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant(s)

By _____
Norman J. Latker
Registration No. 19,963

NJL:ma
Telephone No.: (202) 628-5197
Facsimile No.: (202) 737-3528
G:\BN\C\colb\Zlotnick2\Pro\Amendment-B.doc